



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 September 2019

**MOTION**

**Revocation of State Forest Area**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (5.52 pm), in reply: I thank the member for Broadwater and the opposition for their wholehearted support of this motion. We are entering a time in this state where Tracks to Treaty and our conversations about the future, strong partnerships, the righting of wrongs, truth telling and of course laying foundations for economic growth and social, cultural and emotional ability to thrive in one's community are top of mind in our conversations. This revocation is simply a part of a bigger picture, a bigger conversation, that we are having with First Nations peoples of this state to ensure that we support economic opportunities but also the ability to be self-determining in decisions about the future.

As I said earlier, I am very proud of this government's commitment to and support for First Nations people through the work of my department in strengthening our partnerships with traditional owners through joint management of our protected areas on the cape and in other locations. Of course, traditional owners bring generations of knowledge to ensure our environment is well looked after. Through the Cape York Peninsula Regional Protected Area Management Committee, traditional owners work in partnership with government in sharing knowledge and history to ensure the cultural and environmental values of the cape are protected. These partnerships will be strengthened by the \$6 million allocated in this year's budget for the acquisition of land in the cape which will support First Nations peoples in the joint management of national parks in this region.

Of course, these kinds of partnerships—this joint management approach—are replicated right across our state, be that the Butchulla First Nations peoples—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am sorry to interrupt again, Minister. There is far too much chatter.

**Ms ENOCH:** Whether that be the Butchulla First Nations peoples in our efforts to review dingo management on K'gari, as some people know it—Fraser Island—the Gidarjil Development Corporation in Bundaberg, which has been working with the department to develop First Nations interpretive elements of the new Mon Repos Turtle Centre in Bundaberg, or, of course, as I said, the work that the Deputy Premier is currently doing in developing a path to treaty known as Tracks to Treaty, which marks a monumental reform journey at the local, regional and state levels in Queensland.

Recently, I was very fortunate to visit Springvale Station Nature Refuge, where I also met representatives of the Yalanji joint venture, the eastern and western Yalanji peoples who are partnering with QPWS and Cape York NRM on a gully remediation project that will prevent sediment run-off to the northern Great Barrier Reef in the Normanby catchment. All of these are examples of how working alongside First Nations peoples in a partnership approach brings great benefits not just to the land on which we are working together but also to First Nations people and of course the broader community. This motion tonight provides an opportunity for another group of people that will benefit a great deal from this motion being supported.

As I said earlier, HQPlantations has demonstrated its commitment to good forest stewardship, including the social, cultural and community values this embodies. It is not the first time that I have singled out HQPlantations for praise for its commitment to the environment and partnering with the community and the government. This was demonstrated recently in a partnership between the government, Noosa Shire Council and Noosa Parks Association to protect land in the Noosa area and gazetted it as a national park. Of course, our ability tonight to revoke this part of state forest—to be able to provide through this ILUA, Indigenous land use agreement—in terms of these peoples is an absolute honour and I think a great indication of the support that this government and this parliament have for the work that we do in this space.

Of course, I met the Girramay people. I know that the member for Thuringowa has a lot to do with the Girramay people and is very passionate about this opportunity to hand this parcel of land back under the Indigenous land use agreement. I again thank the member for Broadwater and those opposite for supporting this motion tonight. I know it will go a long way for the Girramay people and a long way in terms of our true attempt to ensure that our partnerships, path to treaties and relationships between this parliament and this government and First Nations peoples will continue to be honest, reflecting on the past and of course ensuring that the future is a healthy one for all. I certainly recommend and support this motion to the House.